

Anniston
Fall 2002

Contact Us

**Anniston Chemical
Demilitarization
Community Outreach
Office**

11 East 10th Street
Anniston, AL 36201
(256) 238-0120

Outreach Office Hours
Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

Web Site
<http://www.pmc.d.army.mil>

Anniston team nearing start of operations

In the near future, the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) will begin its mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stored at the Anniston Army Depot.

“ANCDF is a state-of-the-art facility designed to ensure safety. Our workers live in this community and have a vested interest in destroying these weapons safely,” ANCDF Site Project Manager Tim Garrett said.

“As soon as we start to destroy the chemical weapons, we start to eliminate the risk that continued storage poses to the community,” Garrett explained. “We are constantly looking for ways to improve safety and maximize our capabilities. Complementary processing will give us the flexibility to operate efficiently with care for workers, the community and the environment.”

“Complementary processing” refers to destroying two different munitions (projectiles and M-55 rockets) filled with the same chemical agent during the same period.

In recent weeks, the Army proposed destroying projectiles filled with GB during lulls in the rocket campaign to help shorten the overall disposal process. Under the proposal, workers will process other munitions while routine maintenance and other activities are being performed on rocket-processing machinery. This also reduces the number of facility “changeovers,” which are five-month processes to clean and prepare the facility to begin a new agent disposal campaign.

“Complimentary processing allows us to reduce agent changeovers, thereby reducing worker risk for agent exposure,” explained Westinghouse

Anniston Project Manager Bob Love. “Worker risk increases during changeover activities because employees must conduct work, using the proper protective equipment, in areas where agent has been handled remotely.”

Love said, “We want to do this as safely as possible.

Westinghouse Anniston has compiled more than three million man-hours worked without a lost-time injury. Our safety culture is paramount at ANCDF.”

To continue preparations to destroy the chemical weapons, which are 40 or more years old,



ANCDF has begun another phase of operations, called optimization. This phase involves preparing employees and the plant for actual agent operations. Part of optimization involves working as if chemical agent is present to make sure employees practice proper safety procedures before agent operations begin.

In preparing for agent operations, Love said ANCDF conducted surrogate trial burns on the liquid incinerator and the deactivation furnace systems. The furnaces were tested using a surrogate material that is much more difficult to destroy than chemical agent. The two furnaces were required to destroy 99.9999 percent of the surrogate chemicals. The pollution abatement system for each furnace also was tested. A third surrogate trial burn will be conducted later this year on the metal parts furnace system.

Once optimization is complete, a shakedown burn will be conducted before ANCDF begins agent trial burns and, eventually, full agent operations.

“The Army is confident that these weapons will be destroyed safely, and we look forward to celebrating with the community when the entire stockpile is destroyed,” Garrett said.



The transfer of command was symbolized by the passing of the Anniston Chemical Activity's flag from Maj. Gen. Doesburg (center left) to Lt. Col. Jones (center right).

Lt. Col. Jones assumes command of Anniston Chemical Activity

On Aug. 12, 2002, Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones assumed command of the Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA). Lt. Col. Jones comes to Anniston from his previous assignment as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Defense Staff Officer in

the Department of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs.

Lt. Col. Jones takes over for the previous commander, Lt. Col. Bruce Williams. Commanders serve two-year terms and are then assigned to other Army posts. The transfer of command was symbolized by the passing of the Anniston Chemical Activity's flag from Lt. Col. Williams to Lt. Col. Jones. Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, Commanding General, Solider Biological Chemical Command, initiated the action.

ANCA, a tenant Army organization on the Anniston Army Depot, is responsible for the storage and

surveillance of the chemical stockpile. These weapons and munitions have been safely stored in earth-covered igloos since the early 1960s.

In addition to the safe storage and surveillance of the chemical stockpile, ANCA also is responsible for risk management operations. The Emergency Operations Center is staffed 24-hours-a-day and communicates daily with state and local emergency management agencies. Along with state and local emergency management agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, ANCA is a participating partner in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). CSEPP was created to assist communities throughout the nation prepare for the unlikely event of an accident involving chemical munitions.

For more information regarding the Anniston Chemical Activity, please contact the Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Outreach Office at (256) 238-0120 or visit the office at 11 East 10th Street.

Disposal mission progressing nationwide

Aberdeen, Maryland

- On Sept. 6, 2002, the Army celebrated construction completion of its accelerated disposal facility located on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The facility now is undergoing an extensive, six-month testing period to prepare for the March 2003 start of disposal operations.
- Using the accelerated neutralization process, the stockpile will be destroyed by September 2003, nearly two years ahead of the original schedule.

Anniston, Alabama

- The Army is seeking permit modifications that will decrease the disposal schedule by nine months. Modifications include changing the order in which weapons are incinerated and processing two weapon types at the same time. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is reviewing the permit request.

Hermiston, Oregon

- Gov. John Kitzhaber approved the Army's surrogate trial burn plan, enabling the Army to proceed with demonstrating that the facility can incinerate chemicals that are more difficult to process than actual chemical agent.
- Currently, the facility is conducting surrogate trial burns and will begin agent disposal operations next year.

Johnston Island, Pacific

- The JACADS team continues to proceed with closure activities including processing secondary waste and removing equipment.
- Final closure is scheduled for January 2004, marking official completion of the Army's disposal mission on Johnston Island.

Newport, Indiana

- Construction of the accelerated neutralization facility is approximately 30 percent complete. The Army plans to begin agent disposal

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Welcome our new deputy program manager

With more than 30 years of acquisition and project management experience, Delbert F. Bunch brings a wealth of expertise to the chemical weapons disposal program as PMCD's new Deputy Program Manager.

Since his appointment to the position in June, Mr. Bunch has been actively learning the intricacies of the Army's complex disposal mission. As part of this effort, his first priority was to visit each of the stockpile sites to meet local citizens and gain first-hand experience with the program. Mr. Bunch explained, "I look forward to meeting with local citizens and hearing their concerns. It will be a perfect opportunity for me to better understand the local perspectives on destroying these weapons swiftly and safely."

Mr. Bunch's current Department of Defense work mirrors his previous service for the Department of Energy, where his focus was on nuclear issues instead of chemical. Specifically, as the department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, he directly was responsible for programs

such as nuclear waste cleanup. He also served as the department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Health and Quality Assurance, as which he oversaw national and international nuclear programs. As proof of his

expertise, the secretary of energy designated Mr. Bunch as the lead technical representative in the White House task force on the Chernobyl, Soviet Union accident in 1986.

Please join us in welcoming Delbert Bunch to PMCD! To learn about his plans to visit your community, please contact your outreach office.



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operations in July 2003 and destroy the entire stockpile by March 2004—two years ahead of the original schedule.

- The Army released an environmental assessment that evaluated the potential impacts of dismantling Newport Chemical Depot's former chemical agent production facility. As part of PMCD's non-stockpile program, former production facilities must be destroyed in compliance with environmental regulations.

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

- The Army has completed construction of approximately 90 percent of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which will employ incineration technology.
- In August, the Army held public meetings to discuss methods for destroying the non-stockpile chemical materiel stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. Non-stockpile items include binary chemical weapon components and recovered warfare materiel.

Pueblo, Colorado

- In July, Under Secretary of Defense Pete Aldridge announced that neutralization

followed by biodegradation technology, or "neut/bio," will be used to destroy the Pueblo stockpile. The Army subsequently released a request for proposal to identify a contractor to construct and operate the facility.

Richmond, Kentucky

- In May, the Army released a draft environmental impact statement for public review that assesses how the proposed disposal technologies—incineration, neutralization and oxidation—will impact the surrounding environment. Public meetings were held in July to receive community input and provide information. The final report will be completed this October, and the technology decision will be made by March 2003.

Tooele, Utah

- The facility is preparing to incinerate VX nerve agent and expects to complete the disposal campaign in summer 2003.

For additional updates and current events, please visit our Web site at <http://www.pgcd.army.mil>.

We want to hear from you ...

The Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office serves as a clearinghouse of information about the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Anniston Army Depot and the Army's plans for chemical weapons disposal. The outreach office has informational materials that can address your questions or concerns.

If you would like more information about the Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office, please telephone (256) 238-0120 or complete this form and mail it to:

Anniston Chemical Demilitarization
Community Outreach Office
11 East 10th Street
Anniston, Alabama 36201

Would you like an information packet mailed to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered yes to the question above, please complete the following:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
E-mail (optional) _____

The outreach office schedules speaking presentations that can be given to large or small community groups, clubs, organizations, etc. If you know of a community group that might be interested, please complete the following:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
E-mail (optional) _____

